



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information in Blue Text

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Event Name | 21-0018 - Tropical Storm Nicholas |
| Date | September 17, 2021 |
| Time | 0900 |
| Operational Period | September 16, 2021 – September 17, 2021 |
| Report Number | 6 |

| Regions Affected | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| DPS Regions Affected | 2 & 3 |
| DDCs Active | 15, 16A, 16B, 20 |

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: On September 15, Governor Abbott, and Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Chief Nim Kidd called county judges to determine what further support is needed following Hurricane Nicholas. While there were reports of wind and water damage in Calhoun and Matagorda Counties, no County Judge reported any major damage or unmet needs from the state.

Governor Abbott also announced that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has received federal approval to provide replacement benefits for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients for food lost or destroyed due to Hurricane Nicholas.

On September 14, Governor Greg Abbott updated the action that Texas is taking to help communities respond to Hurricane Nicholas. To accelerate the response, the Governor temporarily waived the limit on commercial drivers' hours of service and the oversize and overweight permitting requirements.

Governor Abbott also added Liberty and Wharton counties to the disaster declaration issued September 13.

On September 13, The Governor issued a state disaster declaration in response to Tropical Storm Nicholas for 17 counties. Counties included in the state disaster declaration are Aransas, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Refugio, San Patricio, and Victoria. The State will add additional counties as needs are identified.

On September 12, in response to severe weather threats along the Texas Gulf Coast due to Tropical Storm Nicholas, Governor Abbott ordered the Texas State Operations Center (SOC) to increase its readiness to Level II (Escalated Response) beginning September 13, at 9:00 a.m. central. The SOC will operate at Level II to coordinate the state's response in support of local officials. Tropical Storm Nicholas is forecast to begin impacting the Texas coast tomorrow.

Tropical Storm Nicholas is expected to bring significant rainfall and flooding to the entire Gulf Coast as it moves slowly across the state. The Governor urges Texans to prepare now, pay close attention to their local forecasts, and heed all warnings of local officials.

On September 11, the Governor activated resources to assist local communities impacted by this storm. The following resources have been activated:

- Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (Texas A&M Task Force One): Swift Water Rescue Boat squads and overhead packages.
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department: Game Warden Boat Teams.
- Texas Military Department: Ground Transportation Platoons with High Profile Vehicles and helicopters with hoist capability.
- Texas Department of State Health Services: Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) Severe Weather Packages.
- Texas Department of Public Safety: Texas Highway Patrol (ESF 13) Search and Rescue Aircraft and The Tactical Marine Unit.
- Texas A&M Forest Service: Saw Crews and Incident Management Teams.
- Texas Department of Transportation: Monitoring Road Conditions and Prepositioned Water-Filled Barriers.
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Health and Human Services
- Public Utility Commission: Power Outage Monitoring and Coordination with Utility Providers.
- Texas Division of Emergency Management State Shelter and Mass Care

Texans are urged to follow these flood preparedness and safety tips during severe weather events:

- Know the types of flood risk in your area. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center for information here: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>
- Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- Build an emergency supply kit. For more information on how to build a kit, visit: <https://www.ready.gov/kit>
- Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies.
- Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.

- Be extremely cautious of any water on roads or in creeks, streams, storm drains, or other areas – never attempt to cross flowing streams or drive across flooded roadways and always observe road barricades placed for your protection. Remember, Turn Around Don't Drown.

For more flood safety tips, visit gov.texas.gov/hurricane.

Texans can also visit www.TexasFlood.org for resources and tips on how to stay safe during flood events.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

Region 2 (Includes DDCs 13, 14, 15, 16 Houston, 16 Texas City, 16 Conroe, and DDC Pierce)

DDC 14 – Lufkin (Includes: Angelina, Houston, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity and Tyler Counties)

Newton County: Newton County Submitted a Disaster Declaration.

DDC 15 – Beaumont (Includes: Hardin, Jefferson, Jasper and Orange Counties)

Jasper County: Jasper County submitted a Disaster Declaration.

Jefferson County: Jefferson County and the City of Port Arthur have submitted Disaster Declarations.

Orange County: Orange County submitted a Disaster Declaration.

DDC 16A - Houston (Includes: Chambers and Harris Counties)

Chambers County: Chambers County submitted a Disaster Declaration.

Harris County: Jersey Village, Seabrook, Spring Valley, and West University Place submitted Disaster Declarations.

DDC 16B – Texas City (Includes: Brazoria and Galveston Counties)

Brazoria County: Brazoria County and the Cities of Angleton, Brazoria, Clute, Freeport Jones Creek, Lake Jackson, and Richwood have submitted Disaster Declarations.

Galveston County: [Galveston County](#) and the Cities of Galveston, Hitchcock, La Marque, and Santa Fe submitted Disaster Declarations.

DDC 16C – Conroe (Includes: Liberty, Montgomery, and Walker Counties)

Liberty County: Liberty County and the City of Devers submitted Disaster Declarations.

DDC 16D – Rosenberg (Includes: Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Matagorda, and Wharton Counties)

Matagorda County: Matagorda County is activating Cooling Centers during the day providing functional access needs citizens much needed relief. [Matagorda County submitted a Disaster Declaration.](#)

Wharton County: [The](#) City and County of Wharton submitted Disaster Declarations.

Region 3 (Includes DDCs 19, 20, 21, and 24)

DDC 20 – Corpus Christi (Includes: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio and San Patricio Counties)

Aransas County: Aransas County submitted a Disaster Declaration

Nueces County: Nueces County and the City of Port Aransas submitted Disaster Declarations.

Refugio County: Refugio County submitted a Disaster Declaration.

San Patricio County: San Patricio County submitted a Disaster Declaration.

Region 6 (Includes DDCs 11, 12, 17, 18A, 18B, and 23)

DDC 17 – Victoria (Includes: Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Lavaca, Jackson, and Victoria Counties)

Calhoun County: The Cities of Point Comfort, Port Lavaca and Seadrift have submitted Disaster Declarations.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas A&M University System (TDEM): At 7:00 pm on September 15, the Remote State Operations Center (RSOC) reduced its response level in response to Hurricane Nicholas, demobilizing a portion of the deployed response resources, and leaving some state resources deployed to assist with recovery efforts. Daily Operations staff continue to monitor and report on the current situation preparing Snapshots and the State SITREPs. The State Management Team (SMT) is refocusing their efforts on the COVID-19 response.

TDEM Communications Coordination Group (CCG): Currently there are no reports of major communications outages. The majority of PSAP / 9-1-1, Cellular and Public Safety networks are reporting minimal to no system degradation. Assets are staged and are prepared to conduct ground assessments once conditions become safe to do so.

CCG has coordinated with FEMA Region 6 and the FCC, for post storm analysis of the broadcast RF spectrum and cellular networks. DHS / CISA has activated a SHARES HF net to support Texas EMCOMM operations.

Amateur Radio operators have been monitoring various nets to include RACES, ARES, the 7290 net, as well as localized networks from the Rio Grande Valley, to throughout the Texas

Texas A&M AgriLife: The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is standing ready with Disaster Assessment and Recovery Agent Strike Teams to support the Texas Division of Emergency Management, TAMU VET, the Texas Animal Health Commission, Texas Department of Agriculture and local jurisdictions in Southeast Texas to provide assistance with animal issues response and with storm damage assessments. There are no known impact to livestock or pets at this time. We have received reports from County Extension Agents of wind damage to rice and cotton crops but have not yet assessed the impact on yields or on the second rice crop.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS): TAMFS has three personnel assigned to the Remote State Operations Center to support ESF 4 Coordination. IMT Planning Modules in DDEOC 15, 16A, 16B, and 17 have been released. TAMFS Remote SOC personnel are monitoring possible requests of vegetative debris management in the recovery effort.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): TCEQ is currently tracking any issues concerning drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities in the impacted area. [Currently 47 drinking water systems reported issuing a Boil Water Notice serving a population of 17,730. Four wastewater systems are currently on generator power.](#)

[All ambient air monitoring stations are back online and fully operational. TCEQ's Rapid Assessment Survey van conducted air monitoring surveys in the Galena Park, Manchester, Milby Park, and Deer Park areas Wednesday. No elevated concentrations were measured.](#)

[Staff are available to review and authorize requests for temporary debris management sites and provide technical guidance.](#)

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, Texas Task Force 1 (TX-TF1):
[TX-TF1 were returned to normal operations and have demobilized.](#)

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS): All DPS assets were released and returned to normal duty operations Wednesday afternoon.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS): DSHS has taken off the Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) Severe Weather Packages from standby. All DSHS resources in response to Tropical Storm Nicholas have demobilized.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT): Provide safe roadways for the traveling public. Provide up to date travel information to the public. All TxDOT EOC'S have stood down 24-hour operations and have returned to normal operations.

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HSSC): HHSC continues to monitor situation for state-owned hospitals and state supported living centers and regulated health care facilities. [HHSC provided 10 trailers of water per TDEM request.](#)

Texas Military Department (TMD): [TMD activated 241 personnel in support of 21-0018 Tropical Weather Response. TMD has a Battalion Mission Command and 9 ground transportation platoons \(high profile vehicles\) with three ground transportation Company HQ's. TMD has an Air Operations Center with 5 Rotary Wing MRP. TMD has 5 Military District Coordinators. All TMD resources were demobilized on 16 September 2021.](#)

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD): Texas Game Wardens and State Park Police Officers have returned to normal operations in areas affected by Tropical Storm Nicholas.

Public Utility Commission of Texas: [As of 09:15 Thursday, 16 September there were approximately 52,000 storm-related outages. The greatest affected counties remain Brazoria \(16,000\) and Harris \(12,000\). CenterPoint is reporting about 41,000 outages. TNMP is reporting about 11,000 outages. AEP is reporting about 2,500 outages with restoration expected this evening. The bulk of these outages are expected to be restored today.](#)

United States Coast Guard (USCG) The Coast Guard Captain of the Port in Corpus Christi rescinded modified Port Condition Yankee on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 6:00 AM, for the ports of Houston, Galveston, Freeport and Texas City and the portion of the GIWW from MM-319.5 to MM-442.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

| Agency | Resource Kind and Type | Personnel | Equipment | Status | Location |
|--------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|----------|
| TAMFS | ESF 4 Coordinators | 3 | | Assigned | Virtual |
| TMD | Air Operations Center | 5 | | Demobilized | Austin |
| TMD | AOC Command Trailer | 7 | | Demobilized | Austin |

| Agency | Resource Kind and Type | Personnel | Equipment | Status | Location |
|--------|--|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|
| TMD | Rotary Wing MRP – Heavy | 14 | 2 | Demobilized | Dallas |
| TMD | Rotary Wing MRP - Medium | 28 | 4 | Demobilized | San Antonio |
| TMD | Rotary Wing MRP – Medium | 14 | 2 | Demobilized | Austin |
| TMD | Rotary Wing MRP - Mix | 14 | 2 | Demobilized | Austin |
| TMD | Task Force Storm HQ | 10 | | Demobilized | Austin |
| TMD | Battalion Mission Command | 26 | 15 | Demobilized | Westheimer |
| TMD | Ground Transportation Platoon Headquarters | 9 | 4 | Demobilized | Beaumont |
| TMD | Ground Transportation Platoon Headquarters | 6 | 3 | Demobilized | Galveston |
| TMD | Ground Transportation Platoon Headquarters | 8 | 3 | Demobilized | Victoria |
| TMD | Ground Transportation Platoon | 10 | 5 | Demobilized | Beaumont |
| TMD | Ground Transportation Platoon | 10 | 4 | Demobilized | Beaumont |
| TMD | Ground Transportation Platoon | 10 | 4 | Demobilized | San Antonio To Beaumont |
| TMD | Ground Transportation Platoon | 10 | 5 | Demobilized | San Antonio To Beaumont |
| TMD | Ground Transportation Platoon | 11 | 5 | Demobilized | Galveston |
| TMD | Ground Transportation Platoon | 11 | 3 | Demobilized | Fort Worth to Galveston |

| Agency | Resource Kind and Type | Personnel | Equipment | Status | Location |
|--------|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------------------|
| TMD | Ground Transportation Platoon | 11 | 3 | Demobilized | Gatesville to Galveston |
| TMD | Ground Transportation Platoon | 14 | 4 | Demobilized | Beaumont |
| TMD | Ground Transportation Platoon | 11 | 5 | Demobilized | Victoria |
| TMD | Ground Transportation Platoon | 11 | 5 | Demobilized | Victoria |
| TMD | Military District Coordinators | 1 | | Demobilized | Rosenberg |
| TX-TF1 | ESF 9 SOC LO | 0 | 0 | Demobilized | Austin |
| TX-TF1 | Water Group Supervisor | 0 | 0 | Demobilized | Beaumont |
| TX-TF1 | Water Squads | 0 | 0 | Demobilized | Orange, Winnie, Beaumont |

Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

American Red Cross (ARC): Two congregate shelters remain open with no occupants.

| AMERICAN RED CROSS CONGREGATE SHELTERS CLOSED SINCE LAST REPORT | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------|----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Shelter | Agency | City | County | State | Pop | Change | Consecutive Nights Open |
| First Baptist Church of Nederland | ARC Managed | Nederland | Jefferson | TX | 0 | No Change | 3 |
| Orange Church of God, Embassy of Grace | ARC Managed | Orange | Orange | TX | 0 | No Change | 3 |
| 2 | | | | | 0 | 0 | |

The Salvation Army (TSA): The Freeport Corps established a shelter Monday evening at the request of the City of Freeport at the Freeport Recreation Center, the shelter closed Tuesday. The Bryan Corps sent their canteen and crew to assist in the town of Lake Jackson in Brazoria County. The Freeport Corps served 200 meals prepared at the Corps and delivered to the community on Wednesday. The Texas Division delivered food boxes

and water Wednesday morning to support the Freeport Corps. Distribution started Thursday in Midwest and Jones Creek. The Victoria Canteen began meal service started in Palacios, Texas. Galveston Corps is planning a food box distribution in La Marque.

FINAL COMMENTS The State of Texas State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) in response to COVID-19. TDEM continues to monitor the situation and will continue to provide additional situation reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Level I | (Emergency Conditions) |
| Level II | (Escalated Response Conditions) |
| Level III | (Increased Readiness Conditions) |
| Level IV | (Normal Conditions) |

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at:
<https://tdem.texas.gov/situation-reports/>

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